

Docket No. 0217.97R
Amendment dated April 14, 2004

PATENT

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A composite comprising *Parthenium* species lignocellulosic plant material having naturally occurring resin and synthetic organic polymer plastic, wherein the ratio of plastic to plant material ranges by weight from 80% plastic:20% plant material to 20% plastic:80% plant material.

Claim 2 (original): The composite of claim 1, wherein the *Parthenium* species comprises *Parthenium argentatum*, *Parthenium tomentosum* or *Parthenium incanum*.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The composite of claim 1, wherein the *Parthenium* species plant material comprises (a) whole plant material, (b) plant part material, (c) bagasse, or (d) a combination of (a) - (c).

Claim 4 (previously presented): The composite of claim 1, wherein the *Parthenium* species plant material is processed.

Claim 5 (original): The composite of claim 4, wherein the plant material is processed by a mechanical or chemical reduction process.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The composite of claim 4 wherein the processed *Parthenium* species plant material comprises fibers, fiber bundles, particles, flour, chips, flakes, fines, sawdust, pellets, strands, wafers or combinations thereof.

Claim 7 (original): The composite of claim 1, wherein the plastic is thermoplastic.

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Claim 8 (previously presented): The composite of claim 7, wherein the thermoplastic is a synthetic organic polymer comprising acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene; polymer containing acetal groups; nylon, including polyamide; high and low density polyethylene, including co-polymers; polypropylene, including co-polymers; polystyrene; or polymer containing vinyl groups.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The composite of claim 7, wherein the ratio of thermoplastic to plant material ranges by weight from 80% thermoplastic:20% plant material to 30% thermoplastic:70% plant material.

Claim 10 (original): The composite of claim 1, wherein the plastic is thermoset.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The composite of claim 10, wherein the thermoset is a synthetic organic polymer comprising alkyd; polymer containing allylic groups; polymer containing amino groups, such as melamine and urea polymers; epoxy; phenolic; polyester; silicone; or urethane.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The composite of claim 10, wherein the ratio of thermoset to plant material ranges by weight from 80% thermoset:20% plant material to 30% thermoset:70% plant material.

Claim 13 (original): The composite of claim 1, wherein the plastic is virgin, recycled, or a combination of both virgin and recycled plastic.

Claim 14 (original): The composite of claim 1, wherein the composite is made by the air-laying, melt-blending or compression molding method.

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Claim 15 (original): The composite of claim 1, wherein the composite is particle board or fiberboard.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The composite of claim 1, wherein the *Parthenium* species plant material further comprises (a) lignocellulosic plant material from a plant other than the genus *Parthenium*, (b) added *Parthenium* species natural resin extract or (c) combinations of (a) and (b).

Claim 17 (currently amended): The composite of claim 1 comprising *Parthenium* species lignocellulosic plant material having naturally occurring resin and synthetic organic polymer plastic, wherein the composite exhibits at least a 30% decrease in termite infestation relative to a composite not containing plant material derived from the genus *Parthenium* as determined by ASTM standard test D-3345.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The composite of claim 1 comprising *Parthenium* species lignocellulosic plant material having naturally occurring resin and synthetic organic polymer plastic, wherein the composite exhibits a rating of resistant or highly resistant to *Gleophyllum trabeum* or *Poria placenta* decay fungi as determined by ASTM standard test D-2017.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The composite of claim 17, wherein the composite further exhibits a termite resistance rating of high or heavy termite mortality as determined by ASTM standard test D-3345.